

Officer & Director Slate Named

Mrs. Herschell Boyd, Seattle, has been re-nominated to serve as NHS President for the following year. Other officer candidates are Mrs. James Scott, Bellevue, 1st Vice President; Mrs. Joseph Carman III, Tacoma, 2nd Vice President; and Mrs. Nancy Peterson, Seattle, 3rd Vice President. Recording Secretary nominee is Mrs. John Hill; Treasurer, Mr. Lester Pettit, Seattle and Past President, Mrs. Gordon Anderson, Bellevue.

Nominated for a 2nd 3-year term to the Board of Directors are: Cyrus Happy, Tacoma; and Mrs. Dutton Hayward, Tacoma.

New nominees to the Board of Directors are: Mrs. Leo Cunningham, Seattle; Mrs. George L. Davis, Jr.; Mrs. Lucas DeClerq, Seattle, Mrs. John C. Hill; Mrs. Rodman L. Hooker, Seattle; and Miss Lynn Sonneman, Seattle.

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Mrs. Gordon Anderson, Bellevue, Mrs. Leo Cunningham, Seattle, Mrs. Charles E. Lile, Medina; Mrs. John N. Nordstrom, Bellevue; Mrs. Harry Olsen, Jr., Bellevue; and Mrs. Leonard Wilcox, Seattle.

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for Northwest Horticultural Society will be held at 10 a.m., Monday, April 18 at Isaacson Hall, CUH, University of Washington. All Northwest Horticultural Society members are invited to attend.

Pacific Horticulture Benefit of Membership

One benefit of membership in Northwest Horticultural Society is a subscription to the quarterly magazine **Pacific Horticulture**, a high quality publication about and for horticulture on the West Coast.

Serving on the Pacific Horticulture Board are: Mrs. Barbara Lindberg, Tacoma; Mrs. John A. Moore, Tacoma; and Mrs. James R. Scott, Bellevue. Nell Scott has been made a Vice President.

Spring Lectures Start April 12

The first in the NHS lecture series is April 12 at 10:00 a.m. with Marco Polo Stufano, Directory of Horticulture, Wave Hill, New York City, NY. His talk will be on the transition from private estate to public garden.

Wave Hill is a 28-acre property with nearly a dozen gardens, including an herb garden, a monocot garden and a conifer collection. There are also extensive structures: A conservatory, an alpine house and greenhouses, too.

Stufano has been director of horticulture for 20 years since shortly after the garden was given to New York City. Stufano was the cover subject of **Horticulture** magazine, November, 1987, and a long article on Wave Hill gives good insight into his subject.

Public Gardens

'The Business of Building Gardens' is the subject of Geoffrey Rausch's lecture at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27.

A partner in Environmental Planning and Design, a major force in planning public parks and botanic gardens of the United States including the current master development plan for Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island (which will be toured the previous day April 26).

Rausch will explain developments at many of the firm's major projects which have included the master plan for the Chicago Botanic Garden from its beginning 23 years ago, a master plan for the Ohio and the Cary Arboretum of the New York Botanical Garden.

English Writer

Penelope Hobhouse, an outstanding English gardener and writer, will speak on "Color in Your Garden" on May 17, at 10:00 a.m. at CUH.

The title of the talk is also the same as that of one of her highly regarded books. She has also written a useful guide to the National Trust Gardens of England, along with many other works for newspapers and magazines.

Lecture Chair Shirley Gorman also mentioned that coffee will be served for 30 minutes in advance of all of the lectures, giving members and guests a chance to socialize.

Spring Tours Start at Bloedel

The first will be a tour of Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island, an advance preview of a private estate being developed as a public garden. The garden will not be opened to the public until October. Those on the tour will be given an inside look at the process. (Geoffrey Rausch of Environmental Planning and Design, Pittsburgh, PA, will give an NHS lecture the next day, April 27th).

Following the tour of the Bloedel Reserve, lunch will be served at the home of Elizabeth and Alexander Fiskén, on Bainbridge Island. The home is of particular architectural merit and was designed by Carl Gould, Sr. R. David Adams is sponsoring the lunch, with all funds to benefit NHS in their entirety.

The cost of the tour and lunch is \$30. Transportation will also be provided. Those going on the tour should park in the lower parking lot at the Museum of Science and Industry, 2700 24th Ave. East in Seattle at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact Mrs. Don G. Abel by phoning 325-0333.

Chinese Garden In Vancouver, B.C.

On Wednesday, June 8, a tour will be led to the only classical Chinese garden outside of China. The Sun Yat Sen garden in Vancouver, B.C., was completed in 1986 and connects to a public garden behind the Chinese Cultural Center, Duane Pentilla, Senior Landscape Architect, Seattle Parks Department, will lead the tour, and bring tour participants up to date on the plans for Seattle's own proposed Chinese garden.

Elizabeth Fiskén, Tour Chair, expects good attendance for both tours, and suggests that when brochures arrive, members sign up promptly in order not to be disappointed.

President's Message

The horticultural aims of the NHS sit predominantly on my shoulders. My eyes have been opened to a new "fountain of knowledge" made available to us. The Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library at the Center for Urban Horticulture adds a new dimension to the gardener whether he is accustomed or unaccustomed to using a library.

The present library, approximately three years old, houses some 5000 books, a few very special rare volumes, and periodicals from almost 200 subscriptions. Use of the library continues to grow with reference services provided to a wide range of horticulturists, professionals, faculty and students, and a diverse and knowledgeable gardening public.

A gift from Pendleton and Elisabeth C. Miller built and furnished the library. And, again, it is through their generosity that expansion plans are in progress which will provide the Northwest with its only major horticultural library. NHS has established a Library Fund to which contributions designated for the library can be given. The librarians, Laura Lipton and Valerie Easton, have provided a "wish list" which can be obtained by calling the NHS office.

"Doctors, lawyers, merchants, chiefs" all need librarians and so do we!

Marili Boyd

Library Notes

A reminder that the Elisabeth Carey Miller Library will be open on these Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm:

April 16 May 7 May 21

New Books At The Library:

Ornamental Grasses

Gift of Pendleton Miller

Puget Sound Environmental Atlas

Volumes 1 & 2

Gift of Pendleton Miller

Sources of Native Plants & Seeds

Landscape Management

by James R. Feucht
& Jack D. Butler

Gift of C. McCord

Gardening, A Gardener's Dictionary

By Henry Beard
& Roy McKie

Gift of John Wott

Garden Accents

by Derek Fell

Ferns For The Home And Garden

By Gillean Dunk
Gift of Innis Arden
Garden Club

Elsevier's Dictionary Of Trees And Shrubs

Gift of Pendleton Miller

Cyclamen A Gardener's Guide To The Genus

By Doris Saunders
Gift of Nan Ballard

Australia's Wildflowers

By Michael Morcombe
Gift of B. O. Mulligan

The Damp Garden

By Beth Chatto
Gift of Pendleton Miller

The Year at Great Dixter

By Christopher Lloyd
Gift of Pendleton Miller

Growing Silver, Grey & Blue Foliage Plants

By Roger Spencer
Gift of Pendleton Miller

Book Review:

The Opinionated Gardener

By Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

Once upon a time there lived (and still does) a rampant gardener who raised (and still does) 2,000 kinds of seed each year. In his spare time he was Chairman of the Connecticut Chapter and co-founder of the Berkshire Chapter of the American Rock Garden Society.

As Chapter Chair, Geoffrey Charlesworth wrote a monthly series of essays in the newsletter, and these have been gathered together in book form. With such an origin the subjects are wide ranging and include the seasons of the garden, random species, the philosophy of the garden, mixed seeds — all presented in amusing and highly literate form. More montane than Montaigne, the essays are equally thought-provoking and delightful bedside reading.

For those who demand information only, the author has much to say about obtaining seed, keying out, Latin plant names, labels, and growing plants on. Because Mr. Charlesworth is a rock gardener the book obviously has an alpine slant, but is not limited to this subject. A case in point is the chapter "What's Wrong with Growing Annuals?" The author cites and refutes a number of reasons for not growing them ("You don't

like gaudy? Why are you gardening?") and goes on to describe about 45 kinds of interesting and unusual annuals, many of which self seed.

Perennials are not forgotten, either. Beginning with the *creme de la creme* *Eriogonum nanum*, ("This has to head the list. Nobody gets to Valhalla on this one"), he continues with a useful listing of plants which we can grow and love.

My favorite parts of the book are the random essays. "I hate pleasure. Cocktail parties, air travel, silk underwear, late-night banquets, lying on the beach, ring-side seats, disco music, and anything jolly ... Being happy is dirt under your fingernails, wearing old clothes ... starting a new bed, giving plants away, and listening to rain. I know I have had a good time when my shoes are full of grit, my hands chapped, my legs tottering under me, with a slight twinge in my shoulders, a shooting pain at the back of my neck, wet knees, and chipped nails."

Other equally delightful chapters concern the two kinds of gardeners, "Gardener Number One wants a garden with form and an easily recognizable beauty ... Gardener Number Two wants to grow everything." He continues with garden follies we all have experienced: "the electric snow shovel which requires plugging into an outdoor outlet often buried in the snow ... dwarf fruit trees that never bear, dwarf conifers that suddenly transmute into giants ... and the rubber rake, too soft to move leaves."

Included are a list of alpine plant societies, commercial seed lists of value, a selected nursery list, and a bibliography of alpine plant books.

I have read *The Opinionated Gardener* three times: as a series in the newsletter, again when it was first issued, and again as a reviewer. I plan to read it several times after my husband has a turn. Need I say more?

Pat Bender

Special Note: Until April 15, *The Opinionated Gardener* is available from the American Rock Garden Society Bookstore, 3923 Rolling Hills Road, Arden Hills, MN 55122 for \$11.00 (list price \$16.95) plus \$1.50 postage & handling. Total: \$12.50. Thereafter, the price is \$14.00 plus \$1.50 for postage & handling.

Staff Member Hired

Debbie Brittingham has been hired to staff the Northwest Horticultural Society office at CUH from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm Wednesday and Thursday each week. The office phone number is: 527-1794.

Plant Propagation

by Marge Baird and Sylvia Duryee

Propagating plants is one of the most satisfying aspects of gardening. You not only can increase your own special plants for various reasons — such as increasing a ground cover, brightening up a corner, creating a new interest spot or developing more continuity of a line.

Propagation also provided you with spares for swapping with other growers of desirable plants. Many clump forming members of the Heath Family (Ericaceae) can be split within the year (if deeply mulched with a peaty compost). You can do the same with many herbaceous species just as they really begin to grow in the spring. A good example is Primula. Many of these plants thank you profusely for this by giving you better color and stronger, longer-lasting blooms. The extra plants? Why not pot up and give to your plant sale.

How about growing from seed a pot of Soldanella or Cyclamen to later pot up and trade. Seed, when available, is one of the best methods of propagation and should be done as soon as possible after receipt. True, it can be slower, but where else can you find some special and rare species?

Soil Mix: A good basic formula for seed starting is simple: One part each of sterilized soil, gritty sand, and coarse vermiculite. Press this down gently to about 1/4 inch from the top of a clean plastic pan or pot, dust gently with a fungicide, then sparingly sprinkle on the seed and cover with a thin layer of grit or vermiculite.

You may alter this basic compost for the needs of different species by increasing the proportions of peat or leaf mold or grit. Soak the seed pans, then drain and cover with glass or plastic until germination is under way. Then uncover for ventilation, but keep misted and out of direct sun. Do not overwater or you will get damping-off.

Some hard-coated seeds should be soaked for 24 hours before sowing (start with very hot water). Nan Ballard rolls her cyclamen seeds across a bar of Ivory soap before the soak. Other hard-coated seeds such as Alstroemeria need a scratch in the coating.

Do remember that germination may be as fast as 2 to 4 weeks but it may be erratic, too. Patience, friend, and remember that most species will only germinate about the same time as their parent produces new foliage. And also remember that if seed does not germinate at the expected proper time, it will probably germinate at the next 'right time' of the next year. Do not lose

hope, keep your seeded pots with labels and sowing dates intact. Be sure to protect from slugs, cats, dogs and the errant cleaner-upper with rake or spade.

Seed List: Our 1988 Seed Exchange list offers many desirable plant species that are hard to find or not available. Why not try something different and easy as an Eryngium or *Digitalis lutea*. *Mitchella breweri*, a good native ground cover, is easy, as are the Asarums (wild ginger). Don't forget the cat: Sow some *Nepeta cataria*. Try a fall bloomer like *Nerine bowdenii* and enjoy plants with both interesting flowers and fruit such as *Lapeirousia*, *Arum italicum*, or *Billardiera longiflora*.

The bulbs are slow but rewarding — such as Brodiaea, Erythronium, Fritillaria or Ixiolirion.

The Hebes have wonderful foliage color and are tough: they do well in the driest of spots.

Don't forget the woodsy or dark places under the rhododendrons or on the north side of buildings. There are some remarkable ferns available on the seed list, too. Many are easy to grow and you have many wonderful forms to try. A good sampling can be seen at the Fern Festival and Sale in June. If you start your own spores now, you'll have young plants by next spring.

Many seed varieties and fern spores are still available from the seed list and we will accept your orders until April 30.

For more information phone or write:

Marge Baird
8928 N.E. 33rd Place,
Bellevue, WA 98004
454-3862

Sylvia Duryee
1115 41st East
Seattle, WA 98112
329-2062

Fern Festival June Highlight

Three days of activity capped by a lecture by a fern expert, a garden tour and sale of ferns from the beautiful to the exotic are features of the Fern Festival during the first week of June.

The opening event is a lecture by an expert on temperate and tropical ferns. Dr. John T. Mickel, Curator of Ferns, the New York Botanical Garden, New York City, NY, will speak on 'Mexican Ferns for American Gardens' at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 2nd at the Center for Urban Horticulture.

Dr. Mickel has written two books on ferns (How to Know the Ferns and Fern Allies, William C. Brown; and The Home Gardener's Book of Ferns, Holt, Rinehart and Winston) with a third to be published soon. He is generally acknowledged as an extraordinary resource on ferns.

Tour and Sale

Friday, May 3rd, Fern Festival attendees will tour Roy Davidson's Bellevue garden and see his new all-white wheel garden as well as his choice plant collection.

The fern sale (as well as a special educational fern display) will be at CUH from 1 to 5 p.m., Friday, June 3rd, and will continue from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 4.

Sue Olsen, Chair, says that there will be a fine selection of ferns in good quantity but that extremely rare varieties will be available in limited quantities ... and urges Festival attendees to come to the sale early for the widest variety.

NHS Hort Notes

Pollution Tolerant: Red maples are likeliest to remain the healthiest trees growing in cities and suburbs, concluded a recent seven-year study at the USDA's Nursery Crops Research Lab in Delaware, Ohio.

Landscapers, it appears, agree. Asked to select the best shade tree for hardiness, attractiveness and ease of maintenance, they chose the red maple in a recent nationwide survey conducted by the National Landscape Association.

Each red maple can filter up to 60 pounds of pollutants from the air each year. An acre's worth absorbs 2 tons of acid-rain — causing sulfur dioxide — about twice as much as other trees.

Winning Against Gypsy Moth: Only 39 gypsy moths were trapped statewide in 1987, reports the Washington State Department of Agriculture from the 7101 trap sites being

monitored. This is down from the 1300 caught in 1983.

Heath & Heather Blooming Periods: Varieties of *Calluna vulgaris* normally bloom from June through November. Varieties of *Erica carnea* bloom from November to May. Hence, with just these two species, year-round bloom can be achieved. And by planting other species, different textures and growth habits can be brighten the garden year round, too.

Nutrition-Rich Vegetables: The following 'top ten' vegetables provide substantial amounts of important nutrients like Vitamins A and C, calcium, niacin, riboflavin, thiamine, iron and potassium. Ranked in descending order (based on the combined amount of the above nutrients each vegetable contains) these nutritional powerhouses are broccoli, spinach, Brussels sprouts, lima beans, peas, asparagus, artichokes, cauliflower, sweet potatoes and carrots.

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